

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1963.

CONGRESS BRIEFED ON SAIGON RISING

Complete Surprise to C.I.A.,
Representative Told

By JOHN D. MORRIS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1 —

Congressional sources said today that Administration officials had told them the military revolt in South Vietnam had come as a surprise to the United States Government.

Members of a House of Representatives study mission were briefed on the developments by State Department intelligence officers. Their spokesman, Representative Clement J. Zablocki, Democrat of Wisconsin, said he understood that the uprising had been "a complete surprise."

"They told us there was no advance information," he added.

Mike Mansfield of Montana, Democratic leader of the Senate, gave his colleagues a somewhat similar report after separate consultations with Administration officials. In a brief statement to the Senate, he said:

"The news of the uprising in Vietnam came as a complete surprise to me and, I am quite certain, a surprise to the Administration. There have been rumors, of course, for weeks that a coup d'état was in the making, but there was nothing tangible to reinforce such an assumption up to this time."

Representative Clement J. Zablocki, Democrat of Wisconsin, who is chairman of the House study mission, said he understood that the revolt had been a "complete surprise" to the United States intelligence.

Group Briefed on Revolt

He said he and several other members of the group were briefed on the Vietnamese developments at 1 P.M. by State Department intelligence officers.

However, Mr. Zablocki sought to qualify his statement when he was asked if this did not indicate some shortcoming on the part of the intelligence agencies.

"They didn't know it would happen yesterday at 1:30 P.M.," the Representative added. "They were not alerted at 10 A.M. Saigon time that at 1:30 P.M. a coup would be attempted."

Both Senator Mansfield and Representative Zablocki said the uprising was "purely" a Vietnamese affair. They thus backed up the Administration's denial of any involvement by the United States Government.

Policy Review Urged

"As far as this Government is concerned," Senator Mansfield added, "it is my opinion that the events of the past several hours call more than ever for a reassessment and reappraisal of our policy in South Vietnam and, for that matter, in all of Southeast Asia."

"One would hope that the people of South Vietnam will obtain the kind of government out of these tragic developments which will be responsive to their needs and responsible to them. It remains to be seen whether such a government shall emerge, and in any reappraisal of our policies this would be a factor of the utmost importance."

The Mansfield statement reflected a general caution at the Capitol in appraising and commenting on the Vietnamese developments.

A comment typical of many came from Senator Bourke B. Hickenlooper of Iowa, senior Republican member of the Foreign Relations Committee. He said the developments posed "a very serious situation that will require scrutiny and watchful waiting until we know more about it."

Another Republican member of the committee, Senator George B. Aiken of Vermont, said he did not know whether United States agents were involved.